REMARKS

Claims 1- 20 are pending in the present application.

Rejection of Claims 1 – 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1- 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent Application 20020059204 – Harris and further in view of U.S. Patent Application 2003/0177111 - Egendorf et al. These claims are deemed to be patentable for the reasons given below.

Claim 1 recites a method for "determining identifier codes for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities" comprising "receiving a first message supporting a commercial transaction and including at least a first identifier code identifying an object, said first identifier code being associated with a first entity; extracting said first identifier code from said received first message; accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from data representing messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction; generating a plurality of messages incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating a search of a plurality of different identifier code databases including said first database, said databases linking · said first identifier code associated with said first entity to corresponding different identifier codes identifying said object, said different identifier codes being associated with entities different to said first entity; and receiving said different identifier codes corresponding to said first identifier code in response to communicating said plurality of messages". These features are not shown (or suggested) in Harris alone or in combination with Egendorf.

The method of claim 1 dynamically translates a code or identifier used by a first entity (such as a first company) to identify an object such as a product, service or resource, to multiple corresponding codes or identifiers used by another entity (such as other companies) using multiple code mapping databases (Application page 2 lines 15-17). Specifically, the method involves "generating a plurality of messages incorporating" an "extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating a search of a plurality of different identifier code databases" including a "first database" derived by "accumulating...object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from data representing messages

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supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction". The systems of Harris and Egendorf (alone or in combination) are wholly unlike the present claimed invention.

The system addresses the problems involved in effecting commercial transactions that arise through attempted integration of disparate computer systems where a retailer, one or more distributors and a manufacturer employ different identifier codes for the same part, for example (Application page 1 lines 15-30). The claimed system "alleviates the need to manually synchronize different identifier code mapping databases and files" (Application page 6 lines 17-19). Further, multiple identifier code mapping databases "are advantageously updated using received identifier codes". The system advantageously accumulates, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from data representing messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction". The system also generates a "plurality of messages incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating a search of-a plurality of different identifier code databases including said first database". These features are not shown or suggested in Harris or Egendorf. Rather, unlike in Harris or Egendorf (alone or in combination), the claimed system as shown in Figure 12 of the Application, for example, advantageously translates identifiers WITHIN messages as they pass through an interface processor (900), WITHOUT any action or knowledge thereof by either the sending system (700) or receiving system (710). This feature provides transparent and automated mapping of identifiers, WITHOUT requiring changes to either a sending or receiving application. Harris and Egendorf, alone or in combination neither disclose nor suggest this feature of the present claimed invention.

The system of Harris as shown in Figure 1 actively surveys a data source, depicted as a database engine (20), in order to build a mapping dictionary. This requires such databases to support queries from surveyor (102), which requires work on the database engine (20), access to the database engine, and detailed knowledge of the layout of the database (Harris paragraph 0029). The active surveying and communications involved in the Harris system are burdensome and employ processing, communication and bandwidth resources. The necessary connections between units 102 and 20 in Harris present a security risk and burden database engine 20. In contrast, the claimed system does not require such an active surveying connection to databases in order to build a mapping dictionary, because it

is able to *passively* survey *messages* supporting *commercial transactions* in communication on a network to build a mapping dictionary.

Thus, the claimed system, by "accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from data representing messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction", advantageously does not require an active connection between units like 102-20 in Harris or a tight linkage to a database record layout (as in Harris) and does not incur an associated security risk. Further, the surveying connection required by Harris results in the need to build, maintain, and effect customized queries and results (110, 112 Figure 1). The claimed system does not need to interact with either the sender (700) or receiver (710) databases as data sources and so is not burdened by the need to build and communicate such queries. Although, the claimed system links an external mapping database, it is able to function using the "first database" created by "accumulating...object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from data representing ·messages supporting commercial transactions". This feature is not shown or suggested in Harris.

As acknowledged on page 4 of the Office Action, Harris neither discloses nor suggests "messages supporting *commercial transactions*" that are "sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" as in the present claimed invention. The Office Action cites paragraphs [0178] – [0185] of Egendorf as disclosing this claimed feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Rather, similar to the system of Harris, the aforementioned paragraphs are merely concerned with providing information to allow at least one database to be searched by associating an information source with a specific category (see Egendorf, para. [0180]). Once, these categories are known, the user is able to expand or narrow the search by using information sources of categories that are either entirely more general or entirely more specific to obtain the desired results. This process is performed by a "searchbase" which allows the vendors (i.e. information sources) to maintain control over their database but still make available the contents of the database by providing "information necessary to enter a query into its query form and to understand the response of the query" (see Egendorf, para. [0181] – [0183]). Therefore, the Egendorf system provides access to a number of different databases for the purpose of acquiring information about products. There is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure regarding "accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code

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mapping information from identifier codes derived from data representing messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" as in the present claimed invention. Egendorf is wholly unlike the present claimed invention. Similarly, to Harris, Egendorf is not concerned with "messages supporting commercial transactions...between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" as in the present claimed invention. Egendorf is a system for improving search methods and automatic access to a plurality of data sources without human interaction (see Egendorf, para. [0053] – [0054]). Improving information gathering via search is **NOT** "accumulating...mapping information...derived from data representing messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" as in the present claimed invention.

Applicant further respectfully submits that there is no motivation to combine the system of Harris with the system of Egendorf in order to produce the present claimed invention. Specifically, Harris and Egendorf (alone or in combination) neither disclose nor suggest using "data representing messages supporting commercial transactions" as in the present claimed invention. Instead, Harris and Egendorf are merely concerned with improving search capabilities of various database systems located across different networks.

Paragraph [0057] of Egendorf is cited as providing motivation for combing Harris and Egendorf to produce the present claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Paragraph [0057] of Egendorf provides no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure supporting the assertion put forth on page 4 of the Office Action. Rather, in the cited section Egendorf provides a list of vendors and/or organizations that may be an information source for use with the Egendorf search system. There is no disclosure with respect "effecting a commercial transaction" between entities as in the present claimed invention.

The lack of motivation to combine these references to produce the present claimed invention is further evident in looking at the operation of the present claimed system. Specifically, commercial transaction messages have an entirely different function and purpose than a query used to interrogate a dictionary as discussed in para. [0031] of Harris or to effect a broad or narrow query of different vendor databases as discussed in para. [0183] of Egendorf. Further, queries of Harris para. 0031 are NOT "messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction". The queries of Harris and/or

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Egendorf are sent by a user for performing a search of data sources. (Harris para. 0003 and 0007 first two lines and Egendorf para. [0180] – [0183]) and not to effect commercial transactions as in the present claimed invention .

In addition it would not be obvious to modify the system of Harris with the system of Egendorf to dynamically accumulate object identifier code mapping information from message data since Harris and Egendorf provides no problem recognition, reason or other motivation for incorporating such a feature.

Furthermore, even if these systems were combined they would not produce the system as claimed in claim 1 of the present invention. Specifically, the combination of these references neither discloses nor suggests in a commercial transaction a system that "accumulat[es], in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" as in the present claimed invention. Instead the combined system of Harris and Egendorf provides a system for querying a plurality of different data sources which is clearly unrelated to a system that effects "a commercial transaction" between entities as in the present claimed invention.

Independent claims 15, 16, 17 and 19 include the similar patentable limitation as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 15, 16, 17 and 19 are not obvious in view of Harris and Egendorf. Specifically, Harris and Egendorf (alone or in combination) neither disclose nor suggest "data representing messages supporting commercial transaction and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" be used to derive "identifier codes" for "accumulating...object identifier code mapping information" as in the present claimed invention. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 15, 16, 17 and 19 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 2 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 2 is also considered to be patentable because Harris or Egendorf (alone or in combination) neither discloses nor suggest "accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived" from "messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" that "comprise purchase or sale of goods related transactions and including the activity of updating said plurality of

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databases to incorporate said different identifier codes identifying said object". Harris as explained in connection with claim 1, does not discuss, mention or contemplate "accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived" from "messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" that "comprise purchase or sale of goods related transactions".

Paragraph [0057] of Egendorf (with Harris) is cited as suggesting "said commercial transactions comprise purchase or sale of goods related transaction". Applicant respectfully disagrees. As discussed above, nowhere in paragraph [0057] is there any 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure regarding "commercial transaction" let alone any disclosure that these transactions "comprise purchase or sale of goods" as in the present claimed invention. Rather, therein Egendorf merely provides a listing of entities that may function as an information source which is searchable using the Egendorf system and that the system allows for current information to be provided upon execution of a search. This is NOT related to "purchase or sale of goods" between entities as claimed in the present invention. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 3 – 14 are dependent on claim 1 and are considered patentable for the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1 and also for the reasons detailed in the Office Action filed on June 28, 2005 which are equally applicable in response to the rejections. Specifically, as presented above the systems of Harris and Egendorf (alone or in combination) neither disclose nor suggest "determining identifier codes for an object" by "receiving a first message supporting a commercial transaction" and "extracting said first identifier code from said received message" as in the present claimed invention. Additionally, Harris and Egendorf (alone of in combination) neither disclose nor suggest "accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from data representing messages supporting commercial transactions and sent between entities desiring to effect a commercial transaction" as in the present claimed invention. Instead, the systems of Harris and Egendorf are systems that are used to search a plurality of different data sources to acquiring desired information to be used for different purposes. These system are NOT concerned with commercial transactions as in the present claimed invention and, alone or in combination, provide no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure of the operation of the claimed

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system. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 3 – 14 be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 18 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 17 and for the reasons presented above with respect to claim 1. Claim 18 is also considered to be patentable because Harris (with Egendorf) neither discloses nor suggests the feature combination of claim 18 involving "generating a record of provision of said different identifier codes for use in at least one of, (a) billing, and (b) creating a transaction record". Contrary to the Rejection statements made on page 15 the Harris log file of para. 0055 provides "data pertaining to received query information, customized search queries, generated search results, query identity, data source identity, time of query, etc" and does NOT generate a record of provision of said different identifier codes for use in at least one of, (a) billing, and (b) creating a commercial transaction record". There is no mention of billing in para. 0076. The Rejection statement that the feature combination involving "generating a record of provision of said different identifier codes for use in at least one of, (a) billing, and (b) creating a commercial transaction record". is purely speculation. Furthermore, as acknowledged throughout the Office Action, Harris neither discloses nor suggests "messages supporting commercial transactions". Therefore, Harris has no need for "creating a commercial transaction record" as in the present claimed invention.
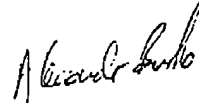
In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Harris and Egendorf, alone or in combination, provides no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure that makes the present invention as claimed in claims 1, 15, 16, 17, and 19 unpatentable. As claims 3 – 14 are dependent on claim 1, claim 18 is dependent on claim 17 and claim 20 is dependent on claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3 – 14, 18 and 20 are also not made unpatentable by Harris and/or Egendorf. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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